If it felt like this summer was hot, well, that's because it was! 2012 is the hottest year Holyoke has seen in a long time, if not the hottest summer ever.

A grand total of 24 days broke the 100-degree mark in June, July and August, with the hottest day reaching a whopping 110 degrees on June 26, as recorded by National Weather Observer Dan Kafka.

To put this in perspective, the number of triple digit days last year was eight. 2010 had only one day over 100 degrees, 2009 had zero, and 2008 had four.

This year, June's average high temperature was significantly higher than normal. June saw seven days at 100 or more with an additional 13 days in the 90-99-degree range. 2012's 93-degree high temp average for June compares to 82 in 2011 and 2010, 78 in 2009 and 81 in 2008.

Temps only got hotter in July this year, with 11 days at 100 or better and another 15 days between 90 and 99 degrees. Average high temperatures reached 95 degrees compared to 91 in 2011, 88 in 2010, 84 in 2009 and 92 in 2008.

Mid-August gave a little relief from the heat, with several days in a row in the 80s and one down to 70 degrees, but August still added six more 100-degree days. Eleven days recorded high temps between 90-99 degrees. August's average high temperature was 91 compared to 91 in 2011, 89 in 2010, 84 in 2009 and 83 in 2008.

According to weather.com , Holyoke's all-time record high was 110 in July 1954. Records for June and August are both at 107 degrees.

Most people have been complaining this summer about the lack of moisture, with much less rain recorded in 2012 than past years.

In the past three months, Holyoke had 4.07 inches of rain, with 1.01 in June, 2.56 in July and a meager 0.5 in August.

Precipitation for the June/July/August period in the past four years was recorded at 5.88 inches in 2011, 9.88 in 2010, 11.69 in 2009 and 9.05 in 2008.

Kafka said the forecast trend for the next three months is for continued above normal temperatures. For precipitation, Holyoke has an equal chance for above normal, normal and below normal amounts.

“Basically what that means for precipitation is that there is no indication that the drought conditions will persist, but no indication that it will rain—walking the fence so to speak,” said Kafka.

Holyoke Enterprise September 6, 2012